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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Tabin et al.

Serial No: 09/711,724

Filed: November 13, 2000

For: Screening Assays for Hedgehog  
Agonists and Antagonists

Attorney Docket No. HMSU-P14-006

Art Unit: 1646

Examiner: J. Andres

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Washington, D.C. 20231

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**Preliminary Amendment**

Sir:

Please enter the following amendments:

**In the claims:**

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims being examined, whether or not amended, are presented below.

Please cancel, without prejudice, claim 77.

1. **(Reiterated)** An assay for identifying compounds that mimic the bioactivity of a *hedgehog* protein, comprising:
  - (a) forming a reaction mixture including:
    - (i) a naturally occurring *patched* receptor; and